

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over various combinations of the references to Nishimura (USPN 3,756,011), Kim (USPN 6,661,428), Ogawa (USPN 6,597,339), Lee (USPN 6,157,169), Decker (USPN 5,285,430), Nakagiri (4,513,282), and Murakami (4,472,066).

In accordance with this amendment, independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 9, 10, 12 and 17, 19, 20 have been amended to conform to the amendment to independent claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively. The previously submitted abstract has been amended to better reflect the invention to which the amended claims are directed.

Applicant requests reconsideration of his application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following discussion.

The present invention relates to a portable electronic apparatus. As described in the specification (pages 1-4), conventional portable electronic apparatuses, such as portable electronic timepieces, are associated with large power consumption due to the fact that a light for the display must be turned on constantly for a function specific to the timepiece. More specifically, the conventional

portable electronic apparatuses have not been able to adjust the brightness of the display (i.e., to facilitate visual recognition of the display) with low power consumption.

The present invention overcomes the drawbacks of the conventional art. Figs. 1-4 show an embodiment of the portable electronic apparatus 201 according to the present invention in the form of a portable electronic timepiece. The portable electronic apparatus has a display 108 having display segments (i.e., for digits of segments shown in Fig. 2) that indicate time in a time display mode. A selecting circuit 104 (e.g., operable via switch swC in Fig. 2) selects one of the display segments of the display 108 in the time display mode for modification of the display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected. A detecting circuit 109 detects a selection by the selection circuit 104 of one of the display segments of the display in the time display mode.

A display controller 106 controls the display 108 in accordance with the detection by the detecting circuit 109 of the selection of the display segment of the display 108. For example, the display controller 106 judges whether or not the selecting circuit 104 has selected one of the display segments of the display 108 in accordance with the detection by the detecting circuit 109. If it is judged that one of the display segments of the display 108 as been selected by the

selecting circuit 104, the display controller 106 controls the display 108 so that during the time correction mode, the selected display segment has a display brightness or greater higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display 108.

By the foregoing construction, the portable electronic apparatus according to the present invention performs display that is easy to visually recognize while accomplishing it with low power consumption. When the portable electronic apparatus is a portable electronic timepiece, the foregoing advantages are highly beneficial during a time correction mode, in which time indicated in a time display mode is corrected, because the display time in a time correction mode is longer than other display times during use of the timepiece.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over various combinations of the references to Nishimura, Kim, Ogawa, Lee, Decker, Nakagiri, and Murakami. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Amended independent claim 1 recites detecting means for detecting a selection by the manipulation means of any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode, and display control means for controlling the display means in accordance with the detection by the detecting means of the selection of the display segment

displayed by the display means so that during the time correction mode, the selected display segment has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display means. Thus, as amended, independent claim 1 recites with more specificity the structure and corresponding functions of the display brightness control means (i.e., detecting means and display control means). No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

For Example, the Examiner cited Kim for its disclosure of a system for controlling a luminance of a display device. However, Kim does not disclose or suggest the specific structure and functions of the display brightness control means recited in amended independent claim 1. More specifically, Kim does not disclose or suggest detecting means for detecting a selection by the manipulation means of any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode, and display control means for controlling the display means in accordance with the detection by the detecting means of the selection of the display segment displayed by the display means so that during the time correction mode, the selected display segment has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display means, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, claim 1 specifically recites that the specific functions of the "display brightness control means" (i.e., detecting means and display control means) are performed during a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected. The Examiner acknowledges that the primary reference to Nishimura fails to teach "a display brightness control means during the time correction mode."

While teaching a system for controlling a luminance of a display device, the secondary reference to Kim does not disclose or suggest display control means for controlling the display means in accordance with the detection by the detecting means of the selection of the display segment displayed by the display means so that during the time correction mode, the selected display segment has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments displayed by the display means, as recited in claim 1. Stated otherwise, Kim does not disclose any means for controlling the luminance of a display device during a time correction mode of an electronic apparatus having such display device. In this regard, Kim does not deal at all with an apparatus having either a time display mode or a time correction mode. Thus, Kim also does not disclose or suggest manipulation means for selecting any one of the display segments displayed by the display means in the time display mode for modification of the

selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected, as recited in claim 1.

Since Kim does not disclose or suggest the foregoing structural and functional features recited in amended independent claim 1, it does not cure the deficiencies of Nishimura. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the references to attain the claimed subject matter.

Amended independent claim 8 recites a detecting circuit that detects a selection by the selection circuit of one of the display segments of the display in the time display mode, and a display controller that controls the display in accordance with the detection by the detecting circuit of the selection of the display segment of the display so that during the time correction mode, the selected display segment has a display brightness higher than that of the other display segments of the display. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record as set forth above for amended independent claim 1.

Amended independent claim 15 recites detecting means for detecting a selection by the selecting means of any one of the display segments of the display in the time display mode, and display control means for judging whether or not the

selecting means has selected one of the display segments of the display in accordance with the detection by the detecting means and, if it is judged that one of the display segments of the display has been selected by the selecting means, for controlling the display so that during the time correction mode, the display segment selected by the selecting means has a font size larger than that of the other display segments displayed by the display. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record as set forth above for amended independent claim 1.

Moreover, with respect to claim 15, the reference to Nakagiri discloses a display device including means for selecting a display segment and for adjusting the size of the display segment. However, Nakagiri does not disclose or suggest the specific detecting means and display control means and corresponding functions recited in amended claim 15, including the specific judging function of the display control means. In this regard, Nakagiri does not disclose or suggest display control means for judging whether or not the selecting means has selected one of the display segments of the display in accordance with the detection by the detecting means and, if it is judged that one of the display segments of the display has been selected by the selecting means, for controlling the display so that during the time correction

mode, the display segment selected by the selecting means has a font size larger than that of the other display segments displayed by the display. Stated otherwise, Nakagiri does not disclose any means for controlling or adjusting the size of a display element in a display device during a time correction mode of an electronic apparatus having such display device.

Furthermore, applicant notes that Nakagiri does not deal at all with an apparatus having either a time display mode or a time correction mode. Thus, Nakagiri also does not disclose or suggest selecting means for selecting one of the display segments of the display in the time display mode for modification of the selected display segment in a time correction mode in which the time indicated in the time display mode is corrected, as recited in claim 15.

Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 depend on and contain all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the references at least in the same manner as claims 1, 8 and 15.

The remaining cited references to Ogawa, Lee, Decker, and Murakami disclose electronic apparatuses employing display means for displaying display segments and manipulation means for selecting one of the display segments. However, none of these references teaches a portable electronic apparatus having the manipulation means, detecting means and display control means and corresponding functions (claims 1-

7), the selecting circuit, detecting circuit, and display controller and corresponding functions (claims 8-14), and the selecting means, detecting means and display control means and corresponding functions (claims 15-20) recited in claims 1-20.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the various combinations of the references to Nishimura, Kim, Ogawa, Lee, Decker, Nakagiri, and Murakami be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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